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Board of Youth Services 01/13/2010

Board of Youth Services Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, 1/13/2010

Present:

Kevin Flood, Lynn Horgan, Joan Robbio, Lori Talanian, Cindy Sheridan Curran, Bob Bonjiorno, Carlene Newell, Mary DeCoursey, Joan Axelrod, Leon Cantor

Holiday Help Recap

Lori reviewed the holiday help program

Thanksgiving:

82 food baskets given out 40 were Thompson families

Bulk of Collections and donations came from the Ottoson, Hockey Club, BG Club, Patrolman's Association, and Stratton. Big Foot Moving donated boxes. This year the boxes were decorated and they all were uniform in size and shape, easier to work with.

Ottoson collection was not as generous as in previous years. Lori noted that the food collection was competing with other programs going on at the Ottoson in particular "Support a Soldier" donations. May have to rethink this for next year.

Holiday Help:

97 Families were recipients which represented 207 gifts for children

There were some issues around givers and receivers. These issues revolve around expectations from both ends. Some givers could not be as generous as previous years and thus some receivers may have been disappointed. All were very grateful for the gifts. Expectations should be laid out for next year.

Lori is looking for help for next year. It is a huge commitment to do both (Thanksgiving and Holiday help) and is too much for one person.

2. Parent Forum Update –

Next Parent Forum January 25th, at Ottoson 7pm – "Good Stress, Bad Stress".

3. Budget Update – Leon

The 5 year budget plan is over. There is nothing left to fund AYCC and we are looking at extreme cuts. Leon met with Town Manager Brian Sullivan to review plan for AYCC. The town is willing to put \$150,000 towards the AYCC budget FY11. This represents approximately one half of FY10 budget.

Leon's question to the group was "Do we accept the cuts? Do we want to move forward to fight for more money in the budget which would include going through the budget process with a plan to advocate for AYCC. Leon handed out a summary of the budget talk with Brian Sullivan.

The AYCC subcommittee is planning on meeting with Brian S. on Thursday Jan. 21.

Lynn mentioned she had met with the AYCC staff and they were interested in being part of the process. They had some great input and very interested in the process to promote AYCC. Staff is energized and is starting to get mobilized.

Update on the 501c3 status - Lynn

Christine Connelly Sharkey has been in touch with the former members of the 501c3 organization and there are 10 members interested in continuing on that board. Barbara Tosti has agreed to take a coordinator/president position on the 501c3 board.

Discussion about AYCC budget

Joan R. asked what the minimum requirements to keep license are. The minimum requirements are having a psychologist, psychiatrist and a social worker on salary. The number of hours for each position can vary.

A discussion about whether the agency should move toward a fee for service type model which would be a change. There has been difficulty in collecting service fees/billing.

Joan R. mentioned she would look into having a partnership with Lahey in regards to collections/billing help. This may be a "community benefit" program Lahey could help out with. Joan will get back to the group about this possibility.

Joan A. Reiterated the difficulty with collecting fees. She shared her own experiences and the difficulty with clinic time verses other support work which is not billable. Leon mentioned school meetings, phone calls, and follow up as time not billable.

Bob B. suggested we ask for more time to become sustainable and create a plan to move forward.

All are in agreement change has to happen.

Joan R. suggested we ask for \$170,000 - \$200,000 plus money for a consultant (\$30,000 from the current FY10 budget).

The group discussed asking for 3 years to become sustainable. Look at how we can change to become more of a "fee for service model". In the mean time get the 501c3 organization up to date. Which will allow us to fundraise and look for grant opportunities.

Update on Symmes Fund

Joan R. has been doing some research on the Symmes Money. From the information she gathered at Lahey she understood that:

There are 3 funds:

There is 1 million in a fund that is collecting interest but cannot be touched.

Lahey has a fund approximately 1 million which they have spent at the Broadway sight building services and other medical services.

Town of Arlington Charitable Company Fund (1.068 million). There is a committee that exists on paper – John Maher, Charlie Lyons and Dr. Foley. Joan R. was told it is tax exempt funding that must be used by "programs that provide services to Arlington Residents".

The group discussed putting together a proposal to request funding from this account.

Action Steps to go forward:

Meet with town manager and request/discuss

- \$170,000 - \$200,000 FY11 budget

- 3 years to become sustainable

- Lahey to help with billing

- Transform the agency with the help of a consultant (money additional to budget)

Lahey to help with philanthropy

Continue to push for CDBG funding

Sustain counseling services

Activate 501c3 status

Formulate a proposal for Symmes money – Joan A. will start

Billing help from Lahey – Joan R.

Carlene, Lori, and Joan R. – have leads to start looking for a consultant.

March 10th meeting possible time to meet for fundraising workshop from Lahey? Will confirm this at next meeting.

Next meeting February 3rd 7 pm Whittemore Robbins House

Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Mary DeCoursey